

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING

REF: USIA CA 654, MARCH 31, 1972

FOR: IOR/M, IBS, IPS AND INE

VOA RHODES ARABIC SERVICE

1. AL-AYAM'S FOREIGN NEWS PAGE HEADLINE: "SERIOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S.-BRITISH PLAN TO INTERVENE IN M.E. ... PLAN AIMED AT FLYING TROOPS TO M.E. TO OCCUPY PETROL WELLS IN AREA." A FRENCH WEEKLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED THIS REPORT WHICH WAS WIDELY PUBLISHED BY NEWS AGENCIES YESTERDAY. FRENCH MAGAZINE SAID, "HIGH LEVEL MEETING TOOK PLACE SOME DAYS AGO BETWEEN BRITISH-AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN WHICH PLAN WAS DISCUSSED TO FLY PARATROOPERS TO OCCUPY PETROL OIL IN M.E. IN CASE OF STOPPING PETROL SUPPLIES TO EUROPE." REPORT ALSO SAID, "MEETING DISCUSSED IDENTITY OF PARATROOPERS WHO MAY BE ISRAELIES, OR IRANIANS OR BRITISH OR AMERICANS."

2. AL-AYAM COMMENTED ON DIVERSION OF IRAQI AIRLINER BY
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ISRAELI MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WRITER SIR HASSAN FADL SAID,

"IT IS CLEAR THAT SECCOUNCIL MEMBERS STATES WILL CONDEMN ISRAEL, EVEN U.S., WHICH DEFENDS ISRAEL IN SAME MANNER AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF, CONDEMNED ISRAELI ACTION BY SAYING THAT IT IS AGAINST LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION LAWS. ISRAEL IS JUSTIFYING ITS ACTION AND SAYING RUDELY IT COMMITTED THIS AGGRESSION ON BASIS OF POLICY WHICH AIMS AT CHASING PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION LEADERS WHEREVER THEY ARE. ISRAEL IGNORES CONDEMNATION OF WHOLE WORLD AND SAYS THAT IT WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIONS, VIOLATING ALL LAWS AND TRADITIONS. WHAT ARE YOU (ARABLE) GOING TO DO? WHOLE WORLD IN GENERAL AND ARABS IN PARTICULAR HAVE THE ANSWER."

3. AL-SAHAFI REPORTED ON ITS FRONT PAGE: "U.S. USES VETO TO PROTECT ISRAEL." AL-SAHAFI SAID, "IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN NEW YORK U.S. MAY USE VETO AGAINST ANY PROPOSAL WHICH IMPOSES SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL OR CRITICIZES ITS TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST ARAB COUNTRIES. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT SECCOUNCIL SAID HIS COUNTRY MAY AGREE ON CONDEMNATION OF RECENT 'PIRACY', BY SECCOUNCIL."

4. AL-SAHAFI'S CHIEF EDITOR MOHAMMED EL-HASSAN AHMED COMMENTED ON SHORTAGE OF WHEAT, SUGAR AND OTHER GOODS IN WORLD SAYING, "SEVERAL YEARS AGO U.S. WHEAT WAS THROWN IN SEA TO GET RID OF IT OR OFFERED AS ASSISTANCE TO FRIENDS WHO ARE IN NEED. NOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED AND BEST COMMERCIAL DEALS BETWEEN U.S. AND RUSSIA ARE WHEAT. RUSSIA IS IN NEED OF WHEAT AND PAYS BILLIONS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IT." THOMPSON

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